

to the New Government Electric Factory Ltd. As such, the management have stated that it would not be possible to concede this demand.

As regards the second demand, the Union has complained that the management has not implemented the interim relief as recommended by the Central Wage Board for Engineering Industries. In respect of this Demand the management have stated that they have entered into a truce agreement with the N. G. E. F. Employees' Union, according to which the final recommendations of the Engineering Wage Board will be discussed mutually and a decision will be taken on the basis of these discussions. The present recommendation of the Wage Board is only for interim relief. In the meanwhile, the employees have been given the benefit of an additional D. A. subject to the condition that the enhanced rates of D. A. sanctioned will be adjusted towards the amount payable under the interim or final award of the Wage Board for Engineering Industries. The management have further stated that they have given minimum benefit of Rs. 20 and more than Rs. 20 in many cases. They take the position that no further interim relief is justified.

The conciliation proceedings were held in this regard on 2-8-1967 and they are due to be continued today.

(5) Re: COLLECTION OF PADDY UNDER PROCUREMENT POLICY COERCIVE STEPS TAKEN IN MUDIGERE TALUK

Sri K. H. RANGANATH (Mudigere).—I call the attention of the Minister for Food and Civil Supplies to the coercive steps taken in Mudigere Taluk in collecting the paddy under procurement policy.

Sri B. D. JATTI (Minister for Food and Civil Supplies).—Even in a year of normal seasonal conditions, Mysore State is marginally deficit in foodgrains, principally, rice. In recent years, however, due to unsatisfactory seasonal conditions, both the Central and the State Governments have increasingly recognised the need to safeguard the interests of vulnerable sections of the community in making available to them their minimal requirement of foodgrains at reasonable rates. Considering the food gap in Mysore State and magnitude of requirements, it would be impossible to achieve this and unless, Government were able to build up their own stock of food grains and issue it to the people at reasonable prices according to the prescribed scales. After examining all aspects, Government decided to procure a reasonable portion of foodgrains locally.

Procurement is undertaken with a view to (a) building up of buffer stock of foodgrains; and (b) equitable distribution of foodgrains under the control of Government at reasonable prices through a chain of fair price shops.

Only paddy, jowar, ragi and bajra are being procured under the levy orders. They are being procured on a 'Slab' system and levy is determined with reference to the growers holding. Only a limited

(SRI B. D. JATTI)

portion of the total produce of the grower is taken in the form of levy. The grower has an opportunity to dispose of the bulk of his foodgrains under normal conditions of trade.

There is a provision under the Levy order for the determination of the net assessed surplus of the grower, if he considers the demand on the basis of the extent of his holding is excessive and desires to have it determined with reference to his assessed surplus.

The Essential Commodities Act under which the Levy Orders have been issued, implies the levy not on the land as such, but on the crop grown of which there is a stock. In other words, there can be no collection of levy in no crops has been grown on his land, either because it has remained fallow, or because there has been failure of crop. Each grower has full opportunity to establish, as per the prescribed procedure, that the crop has failed. In that case levy will not be collected as per scale. If it is proved by the grower that the crop has normally failed, then no levy will be collected.

The total quantity of foodgrains procured in Mudigere Taluk so far is 12,731.38 quintals against a total demand of 25,595 quintals. Collection is less than 50 per cent of the total demand. Coercive steps have not been taken in collecting paddy under the procurement order and the ryots have not been arrested for not giving the levy paddy.

72 cases of non-surrender of paddy in Mudigere Taluk have been referred to the Police for prosecution. No one has been arrested. The cases are under investigation.

In launching prosecutions, case has been taken to see that only large growers who have failed to surrender even 50 per cent of the quantity of levy demanded have been proceeded against. In the case of small growers recourse to prosecution has not been undertaken. Tahsildars are not making use of Police Officers for collecting grains due under the Levy Orders. These cases have been launched as some section of the people had been carrying on propaganda not to surrender foodgrains under the Levy.

Hobliwise details of the 72 cases referred to the Police Department are furnished below:—

Hobli.	No. of cases.	Quantity of foodgrains involved.
Kalasa	16	702 quintals
Banakal	14	342 quintals
Mudigere	31	684 quintals
Aladure	11	170 quintals.